Recreational Economics Strengths, Challenges, and Opportunities

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Northwest Fisheries Science Center

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August 8th, 2017

Strengths

Relatively large coverage of catch, effort, and demand for most of the important species

Ability to sample from license databases allows (somewhat) targeted survey efforts

Collaborations (CB/FRAM, other Centers, academic)

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Challenges

No regular data collection, each survey requires considerable new effort (PRA, design, experimental design, etc). OMB is sometimes difficult to work with (and inconsistent, depends on who in OMB is chosen to review the submission).

Bioecon model complexity – number of species relative to other regions

Modeling some mgmt. levers is difficult (days of week, depth closures, etc) in a broad geographic survey, although understandably important to potential management decisions (e.g., Garibaldi / Tillamook depth closure …)

Capacity: 1 FTE (<<100% time on rec fisheries) + contractor (~50% of time on bioeconomic model)

Sampling – no saltwater fishing license, have used phone screening in the past but successful phone contacts are increasingly difficult to make

Managers seem to care less about surplus measures on the recreational side than they do profit on the commercial side

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Opportunities

Integrate rec demand with IO-PAC

Provide rec demand for season evaluation – bioecon model should produce measures of effort + mortality contingent on effort

Potential for more graduate student capacity (whether through NMFS/ Sea Grant Fellowship or other means)

More recreational capacity through Robby Fonner's relatively recent addition

Increase understanding of consumer surplus measures (e.g., Council specifications process?)

More collaboration -- on other ecosystem services valuation work, with states, academics, others

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